
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5599

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Franklin, Kastama, Thibaudeau, Benson, Kline and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to funding a central resource center for the
2 nursing work force; amending RCW 43.70.110 and 43.70.250; adding a new
3 section to chapter 18.79 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Washington state is experiencing a critical
6 shortage of registered nurses. To safeguard and promote patient safety
7 and quality of care, the legislature finds that a central resource
8 center for the nursing work force is critical and essential in
9 addressing the nursing shortage and ensuring that the public continue
10 to receive safe, quality care.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.70.110 and 1993 sp.s. c 24 s 918 are each amended
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) The secretary shall charge fees to the licensee for obtaining
14 a license. After June 30, 1995, municipal corporations providing
15 emergency medical care and transportation services pursuant to chapter
16 18.73 RCW shall be exempt from such fees, provided that such other
17 emergency services shall only be charged for their pro rata share of
18 the cost of licensure and inspection, if appropriate. The secretary

1 may waive the fees when, in the discretion of the secretary, the fees
2 would not be in the best interest of public health and safety, or when
3 the fees would be to the financial disadvantage of the state.

4 (2) Except as provided in section 4 of this act, fees charged shall
5 be based on, but shall not exceed, the cost to the department for the
6 licensure of the activity or class of activities and may include costs
7 of necessary inspection.

8 (3) Department of health advisory committees may review fees
9 established by the secretary for licenses and comment upon the
10 appropriateness of the level of such fees.

11 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.70.250 and 1996 c 191 s 1 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 It shall be the policy of the state of Washington that the cost of
14 each professional, occupational, or business licensing program be fully
15 borne by the members of that profession, occupation, or business. The
16 secretary shall from time to time establish the amount of all
17 application fees, license fees, registration fees, examination fees,
18 permit fees, renewal fees, and any other fee associated with licensing
19 or regulation of professions, occupations, or businesses administered
20 by the department. In fixing said fees, the secretary shall set the
21 fees for each program at a sufficient level to defray the costs of
22 administering that program, except as provided in section 4 of this
23 act. All such fees shall be fixed by rule adopted by the secretary in
24 accordance with the provisions of the administrative procedure act,
25 chapter 34.05 RCW.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.79 RCW
27 to read as follows:

28 (1) In addition to the licensing fee for registered nurses and
29 licensed practical nurses licensed under this chapter, the department
30 shall impose an additional surcharge of five dollars per year on all
31 initial licenses and renewal licenses for registered nurses and
32 licensed practical nurses issued under this chapter. Advanced
33 registered nurse practitioners are only required to pay the surcharge
34 on their registered nurse licenses.

35 (2) The department, in consultation with the commission and the
36 work force training and education coordinating board, shall use the

1 proceeds from the surcharge imposed under subsection (1) of this
2 section to provide grants to a central nursing resource center. The
3 grants may be awarded only to a not-for-profit central nursing resource
4 center that is comprised of and led by nurses. The central nursing
5 resource center will demonstrate coordination with relevant nursing
6 constituents including professional nursing organizations, groups
7 representing nursing educators, staff nurses, nurse managers or
8 executives, and labor organizations representing nurses. The central
9 nursing resource center shall have as its mission to contribute to the
10 health and wellness of Washington state residents by ensuring that
11 there is an adequate nursing work force to meet the current and future
12 health care needs of the citizens of the state of Washington. The
13 grants must be used to fund the following activities of the central
14 nursing resource center:

15 (a) Maintain information on the current and projected supply and
16 demand of nurses through the collection and analysis of data regarding
17 the nursing work force, including but not limited to education level,
18 race and ethnicity, employment settings, nursing positions, reasons for
19 leaving the nursing profession, and those leaving Washington state to
20 practice elsewhere. This data collection and analysis must complement
21 other state activities to produce data on the nursing work force and
22 the central nursing resource center shall work collaboratively with
23 other entities in the data collection to ensure coordination and avoid
24 duplication of efforts;

25 (b) Monitor and validate trends in the applicant pool for programs
26 in nursing. The central nursing resource center must work with nursing
27 leaders to identify approaches to address issues arising related to the
28 trends identified, and collect information on other states' approaches
29 to addressing these issues;

30 (c) Facilitate partnerships between the nursing community and other
31 health care providers, licensing authority, business and industry,
32 consumers, legislators, and educators to achieve policy consensus,
33 promote diversity within the profession, and enhance nursing career
34 mobility and nursing leadership development;

35 (d) Evaluate the effectiveness of nursing education and
36 articulation among programs to increase access to nursing education and
37 enhance career mobility, especially for populations that are
38 underrepresented in the nursing profession;

1 (e) Provide consultation, technical assistance, data, and
2 information related to Washington state and national nursing resources;

3 (f) Promote initiatives to enhance patient safety and quality
4 patient care including encouraging a safe and healthy workplace
5 environment for nurses;

6 (g) Educate the public including students in K-12 about
7 opportunities and careers in nursing;

8 (h) Other activities as defined by the department and mutually
9 agreed upon with the central nursing resource center.

10 (3) The nursing resource center account is created in the custody
11 of the state treasurer. All receipts from the surcharge in subsection
12 (1) of this section must be deposited in the account. Expenditures
13 from the account may be used only for grants to an organization to
14 conduct the specific activities listed in subsection (2) of this
15 section and to compensate the department for the reasonable costs
16 associated with the collection and distribution of the surcharge and
17 the administration of the grant provided for in subsection (2) of this
18 section. No money from this account may be used by the recipient
19 towards administrative costs of the central nursing resource center not
20 associated with the specific activities listed in subsection (2) of
21 this section or lobbying. Only the secretary or the secretary's
22 designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is
23 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an
24 appropriation is not required for expenditures. Grants will be awarded
25 on an annual basis and funds will be distributed quarterly. The first
26 distribution after awarding the first grant shall be made no later than
27 six months after the effective date of this section. The central
28 nursing resource center shall report to the department on meeting the
29 grant objectives annually.

30 (4) The central nursing resource center shall submit a report of
31 all progress, collaboration with other organizations and government
32 entities, and activities conducted by the center to the relevant
33 committees of the legislature by November 30, 2008.

34 (5) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement this
35 act.

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